

## **25th REINFORCEMENTS.**

### SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA.

#### TO TEMUKA, GERALDINE, AND ORARI BOYS.

On Tuesday afternoon the Temuka, Geraldine, and Orari boys, who are joining the Twenty-fifth Reinforcements, were given a warm send-off at Temuka prior to going into Camp at Trentham. Shortly after three o'clock, the soldiers, their relatives and friends assembled in the Drill Shed, where they were entertained to afternoon tea by the Red Cross ladies, under the direction of Mrs Aspinall. As usual the ladies had provided a bountiful spread, to which full justice was done by those present. Before breaking, up a few short speeches were made.

Mr T. E. Gunnion, chairman Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee said it was not a month — only a week, in fact, since they had sent their last lot of boys away to fight for us. He was proud to-day, to see such a large gathering to see the boys off. We have got to admit that at the present time our nation is in trouble, and those boys are going to help us out. They are going to fight side by side with the boys who have gone 12 or 13 months ago, help them to finish the job, and bring them back. (Applause.) We are proud to have such boys able and willing to go. We have plenty of boys to go yet; the country was far from being drained of good fighting stock, able to meet the Germans. He knew of no name suitable to call our enemies by, but our boys were going to meet them. He hoped they would do well, and that he would be here when they return to welcome them back. Major Kennedy was with them that day and he had brought a number of Geraldine boys with him. (Applause.) Mr Gunnion then called on Major Kennedy to address them.

Major Kennedy, after thanking the Temuka ladies for their hospitality to the Geraldine representatives, said Mr Gunnion had said he (Major Kennedy) had made default last week, and that was quite true, but it was the first time he had done so since the boys had commenced to go away. (Applause.) They would see that day by the lists of names drawn in the ballot that there were very few Geraldine men in it. The fact was that there were very few men there now liable to be drawn, they had stood up to it so manfully. We deeply appreciate the services to the Empire of men who have gone and those who are going. He wished them all good fortune in their life as soldiers, and hoped they would have the opportunity of showing the metal they were made of. They would have to conform to discipline at Trentham, and learn how to meet and beat some of the finest troops in the world. They had a high ideal to live up to and maintain. In conclusion, he wished them health and prosperity at the front, and hoped they would be spared to come back to us again. (Applause.) His Worship the Mayor (Mr A. Frew) expressed his gratification at seeing so many present to see the young soldiers away. It was cheering to them, and sent them away in good heart.

The men who were going were not men who had been looking for fight; nevertheless, they were ready and willing to fight. (Applause.) The country seemed to be at about its darkest hour. Although things had been going pretty hard with our foe, yet we now see him using new inventions in submarine warfare, and don't know yet what the outcome will be. Yet we can rely on the Admiralty to meet them; to give them as much as they want. (Applause.) And so with our lads. If our enemies want fight our lads will give it to them. New Zealand soldiers had made a name for themselves that was not likely to fade; and the soldiers who are leaving to-day will uphold the name for honour and courage that other New Zealand soldiers have won. New Zealand will come out of this war with a record that all could be proud of. He sometimes thought it would be very nice if some of the men who are going away would speak; they might take a different view of things to those who could not leave home. It required men of courage and bravery to act a soldier's part. Since the war started over 300 men had gone from Temuka, and that day's quota would add to the number considerably. Geraldine, their neighbouring town, had done exceedingly well, and her men coming to Temuka to join with the Temuka men before leaving for camp was very helpful. The unity existing between the two towns was a type of the unity of purpose that exists between Britain and her Allies in the prosecution of the war. It was this love of one another, comradeship and good fellowship, that is going to win the war, and it was not to be forgotten that Britain and her Allies are fighting for all that is just and humane; if a soldier fights it from that point of view it will take a great deal to turn him. He wished the men who were going away all success, hoped they would come back safe, and they could rest assured of a hearty welcome home. (Applause.)

The Rev. A. H. Norris addressed a few words to the men who were going away. Those they left behind wanted the men who were going to carry away with them the knowledge that all wished them "good luck." In our heart of hearts we not only wish you good luck: we wish the Almighty will bless you and strengthen you. We believe you will do the work you are called on to do: to destroy the works of the devil — and we hope the Almighty will bless you, make strong your arms, and keep you safely. (Applause.)

#### NAMES OF THE SOLDIERS.

The following are the names of the departing soldiers —

G. F. Austin.  
J. Berry (Geraldine),  
St. Clair Chapman.  
C. DeRenzy.  
N. Finn (Geraldine),  
W. J. S. Henderson (Orari).  
W. A. Hobbs.  
A. D. O. Josling.  
C. J. Moore.

Robert Moore.  
L. H. Mason (Orari).  
James Morgan.  
B. O'Connell.  
D. J. Powell.  
A. D. Rogers.  
F. C. Rogers.  
H. Rock (Geraldine).  
W. Regan (Geraldine).  
A. L. Speden.  
W. H. Worner (Geraldine).

#### PROCEEDINGS AT THE STATION.

After the addresses the men lined up outside the hall, when a procession was formed, and headed by the Brass Band, under Conductor Jackson, marched to the railway station. The procession and the assemblage at the station were about the largest seen at similar gatherings. The streets were thronged, and there must have been a thousand persons at the railway station.

Just before the train came in the Mayor made a few remarks. He said he was proud to see such a large gathering to see the boys away - it seemed to him a troth or pledge to those going to the front. He liked the boys going away to know that they have the public of Temuka supporting them, that they will not be forgotten while they are away; also, that those left behind recognise the service they are rendering, and will help and protect them to the best of their ability. If we cannot help our country physically let us do it financially. Their dependents were also to be remembered. It was very trying for these men to leave fathers, mothers, wives, and children, and if we can enter into their thought and feelings, it will tend to create a feeling of sympathy between us that will never die. In conclusion, he called for three cheers for the men who were going into camp.

The cheers were heartily given, and three more for the men who are fighting at the front.

The Band then played appropriate music, and the men had a moment or two to bid good-bye to their relatives and friends before boarding the train. As the train left, the station rang with cheers for the boys who were going into camp. There were over 100 soldiers on the train from Waimate, Timaru, Temuka, Geraldine, and Orari, etc. Captain Chapman was in charge of the draft.

Next week the men for the 26th Reinforcements will leave.

#### GERALDINE'S FAREWELL TO TWENTY-FIFTH REINFORCEMENTS.

A farewell to the members of the Twenty-fifth Reinforcements from the Geraldine district was held on Monday evening at the Drill Hall, a large attendance being present, over which Major J. Kennedy presided.

The Entertainment Committee had decorated the building with flowers, shrubs, and patriotic emblems, and after the musical programme and the reception had been concluded, the ladies provided a repast for the recruits, their personal

friends, and the performers. An excellent musical programme was rendered, the performers for the most part being local artists. The Geraldine Brass and Orchestral Bands as usual took part, and added their quota to the enjoyment of all present. Major Kennedy, in opening the proceedings, said he was glad to see by the large number present that the Geraldine people were not losing interest in sending away the boys to do their duty.

#### THE MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

The musical part of the programme was opened by the Brass Band, which played the National Anthem, and this was followed by the Orchestra with a very pleasing selection. A quartette by Messrs Readdie, Knibb, Whiteley, and White was next on the list, and was well received. Miss Campbell then sang, and was encored, and obliged with another nicely executed item. Mr Donaldson, who was one of the men leaving for camp, was the next singer. He received a fine reception, and his two songs were much appreciated, earning him much applause. Miss Beattie sang charmingly, and also earned a recall. Mr Jack Kennedy recited "On Linden when the sun was low," and as an encore, "Especially Jim," whom a young lady marries as the best mode of getting rid of him. Mr Knibb sang two patriotic songs in good voice, and then the Orchestra gave another popular selection. Messrs Readdie, Knibb, Whiteley and White sang another quartette to Orchestral accompaniment. "Annie Laurie" was the song, and it was effectively rendered. Mr Donald sang two more splendidly rendered songs, meeting with an enthusiastic reception. Miss McGregor earned a recall for a patriotic song, which she sang with good effect. Mr White was the next performer, and he also had to respond to an encore. Mr McGregor sang "Roaming in the Gloaming." An encore was demanded, and complied with, but the audience were not satisfied. They wanted more and the singer complied, singing to his own accompaniment, and bringing the house down. The Orchestra, with a final selection, brought the musical part of the programme to a close.

#### THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Major Kennedy said his first duty before speaking to the men was to extend a hearty welcome to a man who had returned home, an old Geraldine boy, Lieutenant Archie Clark. (Loud applause.) Continuing, Major Kennedy said that Clark had gone away as a private, and had returned with commissioned rank. He had been seriously wounded, and had now been appointed an instructor under the Defence Department.— (Cheers.)

Turning to the men who were leaving, the chairman congratulated them on going out to fight for their Empire, and reminded them they were going to fight with those who had right loyally done their duty. The volunteer system had now come to an end, and now those who had been in full employment, and had their time occupied, were to go and help. Certain things had been said of the balloted men which were not right, and they should give the same honour to them as they had the volunteers, and make no distinction between them whatever. They were leaving civilian life, and going to take up that of soldiers, and as such would have

to uphold the honour of their district. The men who had been drawn in the ballot had accepted the verdict in a right spirit, and were prepared to do their duty like the rest had, and this said a great deal for New Zealand. The speaker emphasised the need for discipline, without which they could not be soldiers. They were going to fight in the greatest army which had ever been raised in England, and with her Allies, and they had assurance that the training our men were receiving was as good as any training elsewhere, and would help to see them through. In conclusion, Major Kennedy wished the men all the luck of soldiers, and said he hoped they would come back home again safely at some future date.

Major Kennedy then asked the recruits to come up to the platform, and receive the wristlet watches provided for them by the Geraldine people. The following came forward; - Messrs J. Berry, M. Finn, W. J. S. Henderson, L. H. Mason, H. Rock, W. Reggan, and H. Worner, leaving with the 25th Reinforcements on Tuesday, and Messrs A. Donaldson, T. Sugrue, C. Sugrue, T. Leary, G. Pithie, A. Scott, and H. Burns, who leave with the 26th Reinforcements on February 20th. Each of the Geraldine men were then handed a present, the other district men having received gifts from their own district committees.

Mrs Hislop, president of the Home and Empire League, then gave each man a parcel of soldiers' comforts, on behalf of the ladies of the district.

As the men marched back to their places in the hall, the Band struck up "Soldiers of the King," and the men were accorded three rousing cheers.

Supper was then served to the soldiers, their friends, and the performers, and an enjoyable dance brought the proceedings to a close.

*Craven Herald.* 26 April 1918

BERRY – March 26th, killed in action, Rifleman Joseph Berry, New Zealand Regiment, eldest son of John and Alice Berry, Airton, aged 30 years.

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